However, the export growth rate in respect of marine products increased from 8.6% in 1989-90 to 39.8% in 1990-91.

(c) There are a number of factors responsible for deceleration of export growth rate during 1990-91. These include : slowdown in world economy, Gulf crisis, recession in USA, recession in global diamond trade, the difficult law and order situation in Assam, cyclone in Andhra Pradesh, tighter import regime and monetary measure to curb imports, etc.

[English]

EVASION OF CENTRAL SALES-TAX AND INCOME-TAX

1385. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that a large number of merchandise brought to Delhi from other parts of the country on Central Sales Tax forms are heavily under-invoiced resulting in loss of revenues to the Government in the shape of Income-tax and Central sales-tax and and

(b) if so, the remedial measures proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) and (b) No such large scale evasion of C.S.T., Sales Tax and Income Tax has come to Government notice. However, as and where any information is received about tax evasion in any particular case(s), appropriate action is taken.

DECLARATION OF WEST COAST CANAL IN KERALA AS NATIONAL WATERWAY

1386. SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kerala Government has requested the Union Government to declarge the entire stretch of the West Coast Canal as National Waterway ;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision taken by the Union Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : (a) to (c) The Government of Kerala had requested for declaring the entire West Coast Canal including Champakara and Udyogmandal canals as National Waterway. The length of this Waterway from Trivandrum in the south to Kasargode in the north, including Champakara and Udyogmandal canals is 659 Kms. The techno-economic feasibility studies conducted by the Inland Waterways Authority of India has revealed that only the Quilon-Kottapuram stretch of West Coast Canal including Champakara and Udyogmandal canals is likely to be viable for development as National Waterway. No decision has been taken in this regard.

LOSS TO LEATHER EXPORTERS DUE TO WITHDRAWAL OF C.C.S. BENEFITS

1387. SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Council for Leather Exports (CLE) has requested for extension of Cash Compensatory Scheme benefits at least till September, 1991;

(b) the quantum of loss leather exporters are likely to suffer on ongoing contracts because of withdrawal of CCS benefits; and

(c) the extent to which devaluation of rupee may affect leather exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The combined effect of withdrawal of CCS depreciation of the rupee and enhancement of replenishment rates on ongoing contracts and leather exports will vary from contract to contract and from one leather product to another. However, it is expected that there will not be any adverse impact on leather exports.